Setting up of Commission to inquire into Punjab Rail Accident

†288. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Commission was set up for enquiry into the Punjab rail accident;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has submitted its report regarding accident;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken any action for the implementation of the report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Ban on Samjhauta Express

289. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Samjhauta Express is being used to import contraband goods and fake currency notes from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is a demand to ban this train; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Some cases of smuggling of fake currency notes have been detected. During the

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.

year 1999, fake Indian currency of Rs. 84,600/- was seized in 12 cases and during the year 2000 (upto 15,2.2000), fake currency to the tune of Rs. 1,38,000/- has been seized in 6 cases.

(c) No specific demand has been received by the Ministry of Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

National Working Group for Bio-Tech Industry

†290. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PAUL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Bio-tech Association (AIBA) has requested the Central Government to set up a National Working Group for the bio-tech industry, on the pattern of the information industry, in view of this sector still being undeveloped and the scope for development therein; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response to the said, demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Government has not received any proposal from the All India Biotech Association (AIBA) to set up a National Working Group for the biotech industry. However, many promotional measures have already been taken to promote biotechnology. A biotechnology consortium functions as an interface between academia and industry. An expert task force of Department of Biotechnology also takes up proposals for biotechnology product and process development.

Original Research in Science Institutions

†291. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no original research is being carried out due to political interference and personal rivalries among the Indian Researcher Community and not even fifty percent targets have been achieved during the last decade, as reported in a prominent journal, Science;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.